

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Further reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 – 11 and 13 – 21 are presently active in this case. Claims 1, 2, and 12 have been cancelled and claims 3, 8 – 11, 13, 14, and 18 – 21 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding office action, claims 3 – 7, 10, 14 – 17, and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant has rewritten claims 3, 10, 14, and 20 in independent form in order to expedite allowance. Those claims and their respective dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Michael R. Casey, Ph. D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,294

W. Todd Baker
Registration No. 45,265

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)